

What is claimed is:

1. A child seat, comprising:

a seat body having a seat portion, a backrest, and a left side guard and a right side guard,

an airbag provided adjacent to the seat body for receiving a child upon inflation thereof, and

inflating means communicating with the airbag for inflating the airbag so that when the inflating means is actuated, the airbag is inflated to protect the child.

2. A child seat according to claim 1, further comprising reverse-flow prevention means provided at a communicating portion between the airbag and the inflating means for allowing gas to flow from the inflating means to the airbag and for preventing the gas to flow in an opposite direction.

3. A child seat according to claim 2, wherein said inflating means includes a cushion provided on a side surface of the child seat and having a hollow body containing air therein to provide air in the hollow body to the airbag.

4. A child seat according to claim 2, wherein said inflating means includes a gasbag filled with gas.

5. A child seat according to claim 4, wherein said gasbag includes gas outlet means for allowing the gas in the gasbag to flow out when a pressure in the gasbag exceeds a predetermined value.

6. A child seat according to claim 5, wherein said gas outlet means includes a film for partitioning the gasbag and the airbag, said film breaking to open when the pressure in the gasbag exceeds a predetermined value.

7. A child seat according to claim 4, wherein said gasbag is filled with the gas at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure.

8. A child seat according to claim 1, wherein said airbag is inflated around a head of a child.

9. A child seat according to claim 2, further comprising a load-bearing member disposed in front of a child in the child seat, said airbag and inflating means being provided in the load-bearing member.

10. A child seat according to claim 9, wherein said load-bearing member is a chest pad or an impact shield.

11. A child seat according to claim 10, wherein said airbag is deployed upwardly from the load-bearing member along a chest portion of the child for receiving a head portion of the child.

12. A child seat according to claim 10, wherein said inflating means includes a gasbag filled with gas and disposed on a rear surface of the load-bearing member, said gasbag having gas outlet means for allowing the gas in the gasbag to flow out when a pressure in the gasbag exceeds a predetermined value.

13. A child seat according to claim 12, wherein said gas outlet means includes a film for partitioning the gasbag and the airbag, said film breaking to open when the pressure in the gasbag exceeds a predetermined value.

14. A child seat according to claim 12, wherein said gasbag is filled with the gas at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure.

15. A child seat according to claim 12, further comprising local-bulging preventing means disposed in the gasbag for preventing local bulging of the gasbag.

16. A child seat according to claim 9, wherein said inflating means includes a hollow cushion disposed on a rear surface of the load-bearing member.

17. A child seat according to claim 16, further comprising local-bulging preventing means disposed in the cushion for preventing local bulging of the cushion.

18. A child seat according to claim 9, further comprising shape regulating means disposed in the airbag for regulating a shape of the airbag when the airbag is inflated.

19. A child seat according to claim 1, wherein said airbag is located at an upper part of the child seat for protecting a head of the child sitting on the child seat, and said inflating means includes a plurality of sections disposed outside the side guards of the child seat.

20. A child seat according to claim 19, wherein at least some of the plurality of the cushions are arranged vertically at different positions.

21. A child seat according to claim 19, wherein said plurality of sections includes a plurality of separate cushions or one cushion separated into a plurality of hollow spaces.

22. A child seat according to claim 1, wherein said airbag includes left and right airbags disposed on left and right sides of the child seat for protecting a head portion of the child sitting on the child seat.

23. A child seat according to claim 22, further comprising a sensor for detecting a collision or roll over of a vehicle, said inflating means being activated to inflate the left and right airbags based on a detection signal of the sensor.

24. A child seat according to claim 22, further comprising a gas passage for connecting the left and right airbags so that the gas introduced into one of the left and right airbags flows into the other of the left and right airbags through the gas passage, said inflating means having left and right cushions provided on outer surfaces of the left and right side guards, each cushion having an inner space to contain gas therein so that when the cushion is pressed, the gas in the cushion is supplied to the left and right airbags to inflate the same.

25. A child seat according to claim 24, further comprising reverse-flow prevention means for allowing the gas to flow from the left and right cushions to the left and right airbags and preventing the gas from flowing in an opposite direction.

26. A child seat according to claim 24, wherein at least a part of said gas passage is formed of a hose to be inflated when the gas passes therethrough.

27. A child seat according to claim 24, wherein said left and right cushions are filled with the gas at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure.

28. A child seat according to claim 1, wherein said inflating means includes a cushion disposed on an outer side surface of at least one of the side guards, said cushion having therein local-inflation-preventing means for preventing the cushion from locally expanding.

29. A child seat according to claim 28, wherein said local-inflation-preventing means includes a tether belt or a stay.

30. A child seat according to claim 28, wherein said cushion includes a gasbag, said airbag being filled with gas at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure.

31. A child seat according to claim 1, wherein said airbag includes shape regulating means therein for regulating a shape of the airbag when the airbag is inflated.